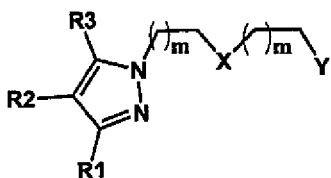


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein m is 0 or 1;

X is  $\text{NR}_4$  or  $\text{S}$ ;

Y is  $\text{SR}_5$ ,  $\text{NHR}_5$  or  $\text{P}(\text{R}_5)_2$ ;

$\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_3$  are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl;

$\text{R}_2$  is H,  $\text{COOH}$ ,  $\text{NHR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_4$  is H, ~~alkyl, aryl~~,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CO-biomolecule}$ ,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_5$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_6$  is H, a biomolecule, alkyl or aryl; and

n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

2. (Original) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkyl is a  $\text{C}_1$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_3$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_4$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_5$  alkyl or  $\text{C}_6$  alkyl.

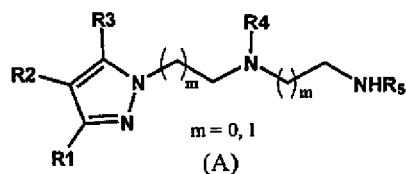
3. (Original) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 2, wherein the alkyl is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, s-butyl, t-butyl, n-pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, n-hexyl, isohexyl (2-methylpentyl), neohexyl (2,2-dimethylbutyl), 3-methylpentyl, 2,3-dimethylbutyl.

4. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aryl is monocyclic or polycyclic,  $\text{C}_{10}$ - $\text{C}_{18}$ , and optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from alkyl, carboxy, oxo, amino, alkoxy and aldehyde.

5. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 4, wherein the aryl is phenyl or benzyl.

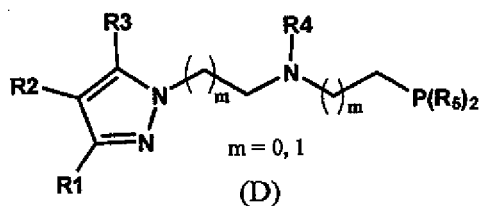
6. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein n is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

7. (Original) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-polyamine of the general formula:



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are as defined in claim 1.

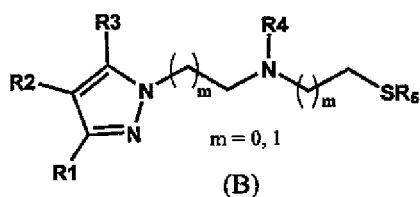
8. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-aminothioether of the general formula:



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are as defined in claim 1.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-thioetherphosphine of the general formula:



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are as defined in claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein Y is  $NHR_5$  X and Y are N,  $R_6$  is H,  $C_1$  alkyl,  $C_2$  alkyl,  $C_3$  alkyl,  $C_4$  alkyl,  $C_5$  alkyl or  $C_6$  alkyl, phenyl, ~~or a benzyl~~ or a biomolecule.

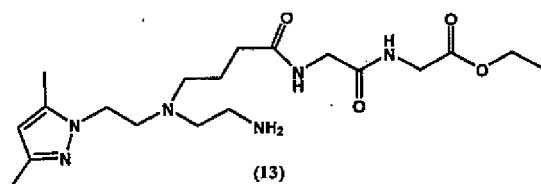
13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein Y is  $SR_5$  ~~X and Y are~~ S,  $R_6$  is H,  $C_1$  alkyl,  $C_2$  alkyl,  $C_3$  alkyl,  $C_4$  alkyl,  $C_5$  alkyl or  $C_6$  alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, ~~or a benzyl~~ or a biomolecule.

14-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~X is N~~, Y is  $P(R_5)_2$ ,  $R_6$  is H,  $C_1$  alkyl,  $C_2$  alkyl,  $C_3$  alkyl,  $C_4$  alkyl,  $C_5$  alkyl or  $C_6$  alkyl, phenyl, ~~or a benzyl~~ or a biomolecule.

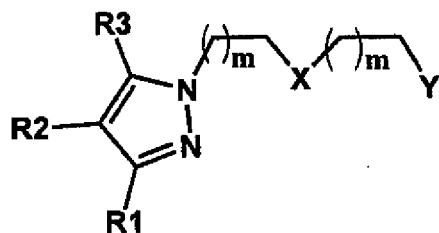
18-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a compound of the following formula:



26-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein  $m$  is 0 or 1;

$X$  is  $NR_4$  or  $S$ ;

$Y$  is  $SR_5$ ,  $NHR_5$  or  $P(R_5)_2$ ;

$R_1$  and  $R_3$  are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl;

$R_2$  is H,  $COOH$ ,  $NHR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$ ;

$R_4$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nOR_6$ ;

$R_5$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nOR_6$ ;

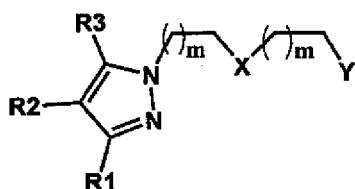
$R_6$  is H, alkyl or aryl;

$n$  is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10; and

wherein at least one of  $R_1$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ , and  $R_6$  is phenyl or benzyl.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein  $m$  is 0 or 1;

$X$  is  $NR_4$  or  $S$ ;

$Y$  is  $SR_5$ ,  $NHR_4$  or  $P(R_5)_2$ ;

$R_1$  and  $R_3$  are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl, wherein at least one of  $R_1$  and  $R_3$  is aryl;

$R_2$  is H,  $COOH$ ,  $NHR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$ ;

$R_4$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nOR_6$ ;

$R_5$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nOR_6$ ;

$R_6$  is H, a biomolecule, alkyl or aryl; and

$n$  is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

39-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chelating agent is bound to a metal center.

42. (Previously Presented) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 41, wherein the metal center comprises rhenium or <sup>99m</sup>technetium.

43. (Previously Presented) A metal complex comprising the chelating agent of claim 36.

44. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein R<sub>5</sub> is a biomolecule.

45. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from amino acids, peptides, proteins, oligonucleotides, polynucleotides, and sugars.

46. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of antibodies and ligands of tumor receptors.

47. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of CCK, thioglucose, glucosamine, somatostatin, neurotensin, bombesin, annexin, interleukins, growth factors, steroid hormones and molecules binding to GPIIb/IIIa receptors.

48. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of glucose, thioglucose, and neurotransmitters.

49. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is an inhibitor of the tyrosine kinase activity.

50. (Currently Amended) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein when R<sub>1</sub>=R<sub>3</sub>=CH<sub>3</sub>, ~~R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are not all three H.~~

51. (Previously Presented) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 36, wherein when R<sub>1</sub>=R<sub>3</sub>=CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are not all three H.

52. (Currently Amended) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein when R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>3</sub> is CH<sub>3</sub> R<sub>4</sub>=R<sub>5</sub>=CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are not all three H.